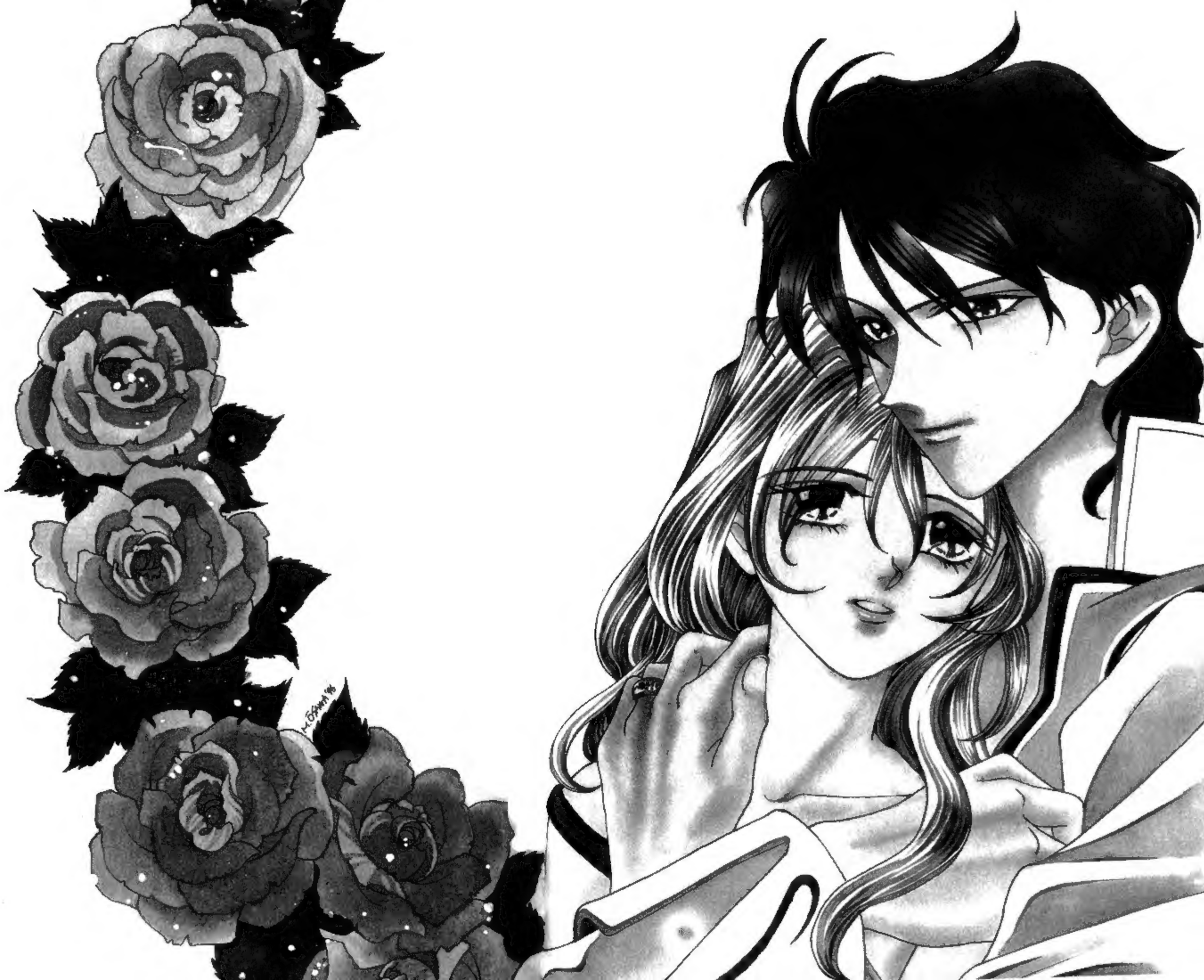
YOU ARE MY "SWORD".
AS LONG AS YOU ARE NEAR ME, THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO BE SCARED OF...
I...CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!



M. ŌSAWA 1996

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE BANDITS!?
THAT'S CRAZY!
YOU'RE JUST A TRAVELING BARD!

COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT.
EVEN A TRAVELING BARD MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

HM?
WAIT JUST A SECOND, LEVIN!!
SYLVIA...?
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HEADING OFF TO BY YOURSELF?
URUU...
Shake,
Shake
!
Shake
Gyaa
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU PLANNED TO LEAVE ME BEHIND AND RUN OFF...

OHHHH, THAT'S RIGHT!
Smile
WE ATE DINNER TOGETHER, REMEMBER?
Leaning over
HOW MEAAAAANNN!!
AND JUST WHAT EXACTLY DID WE HAVE FUN ABOUT, AGAIN?
OH..?
Annoying girl
I was just something for you to have fun with, wasn't !!!!!!
ACCORDING TO YOUR LOGIC THAT MEANS I HAVE LOVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
Teehee
Somehow...
AND THAT PRETTY MUCH MAKES US LOVERS!
Levin, I'm scaredddd!
A DANCER ...
Hmm
MISSY!! YOU BETTER GET OUTTA HERE TOO!
A LITTLE CUTE DANCER LIKE YOU IS A PRIME TARGET FOR THOSE BANDITS.
Come on, why are you wasting time?
EHH? CUTE!?
It's obvious, right?
...You don't have to hold back.
EH? REALLY!?
...OKAY, LET'S GO TOGETHER, SYLVIA.

D...
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
I WILL NOT HAND OVER THIS HOUSE'S VALUABLES TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU!!
THA-THAT'S RIGHT!
QUIT YOUR ...
YAPPING GGGG!!
IN EXCHANGE,
NO MATTER HOW UGLY IT GETS, DON'T RUN AWAY, GOT IT?

!?
Ching!

Oh Salamanders, are you dancing?
Thou slaves of evil.
Today thou shall reduce houses to ashes.
Oh Salamanders, dance.
Thou slaves of righteousness.
Today thou shall serve travelers hot soup.
THE TRUE VERSE...?
FOR WHICH IS...
"MAY YOUR TROUBLED HEARTS BE WARMED"...!
HEHE.
IT WAS QUITE A SONG, WAS IT NOT?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION!
!!

THE SONG WAS GOOD, WASN'T IT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS!!
WH-
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MELODY THAT SOOTHES THE HEART.
LIKE A SOFT BREEZE THAT GENTLY BRUSHES AGAINST THE CHEEK...
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN PLAY ANOTHER TUNE.
FOR THIS BLESSED SONG, IF EVERYONE WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO PUT DOWN THE DANGEROUS OBJECTS THEY ARE HOLDING IN THEIR HANDS...

PLEASE GET BEHIND ME, SYLVIA.
EEK! THEY ARE COMING THIS WAY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
DON'T PLAY US FOR FOOLS!!
..LEVIN?
THE TIP OF YOUR FINGER IS GLOWING ..
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
MY MY ..WHAT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS WHO CAN'T EVEN COMPLY WITH SIMPLE WORDS.
WE'RE GOING TO SLICE YOU APART FIRST!
KYAAA!

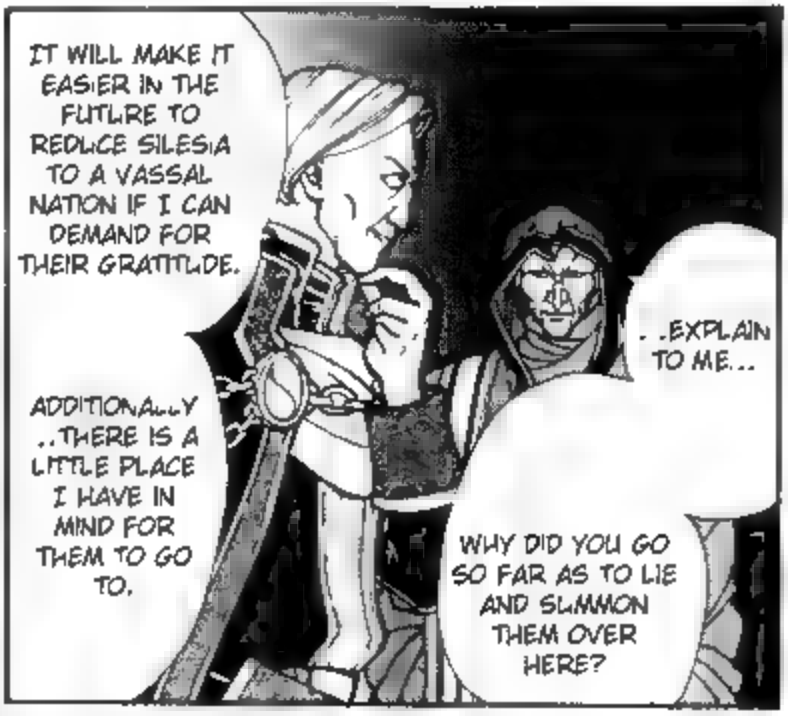
GEH!?
THAT'S MAGIC...
YOU GUYS HAVE
PROVOKED THE WRATH OF THE "WIND"!!

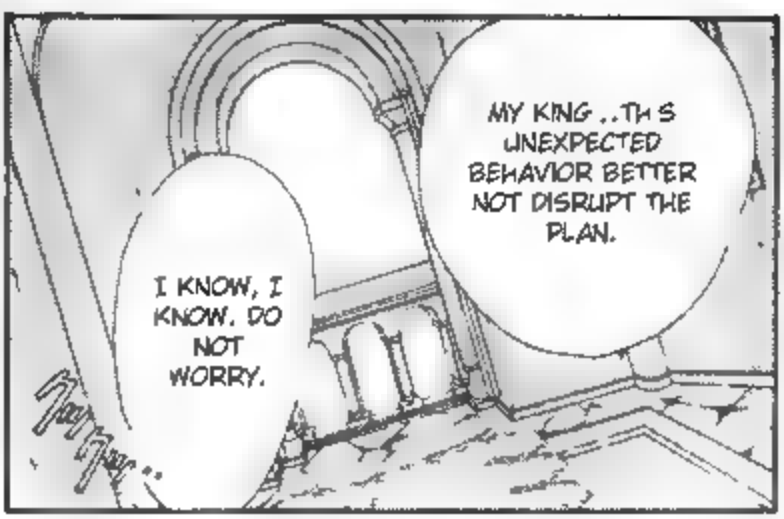
I WELCOME YOU FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY FROM AFAR.
HONORED PEGASUS KNIGHTS FROM SILESIA.
I AM AGUSTRIA'S LEADING KING, CHAGALL.
YOU MAY RAISE YOUR HEAD.
AGUSTY CASTLE
I AM FURY OF THE FOURTH PEGASUS KNIGHT SQUAD OF SILESIA.
I AM HONORED TO MEET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOUR MAJESTY CHAGALL.

ABOUT THAT ..WE STILL HAVEN'T CONFIRMED PRINCE LEVIN'S EXACT LOCATION.
HOWEVER, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT HE IS SOMEWHERE IN AGUSTRIA..
EHH!?
BUT IT TURNS OUT YOU ARE STILL A YOUTHFUL LITTLE GIRL.
OH...! I HAVE HEARD HIGHLY OF YOU..
I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF BRAVE WOMAN YOU WOULD BE.
I HUMBLY REQUEST THAT YOU SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON HIS LOCATION.
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU POSSESS KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF OUR COUNTRY'S PRINCE.
...I APOLOGIZE FOR MY PROMPTNESS, YOUR MAJESTY CHAGALL.
BUT, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME TILL WE FIND THE PRINCE.
UNTIL THEN, WHY DON'T YOU STAY IN THIS CASTLE?
I'M SURE HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HIS APOLOGIES.
THAT WAS THE FAULT OF MY VASSAL HASTILY JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.
BUT!
THE HANDWRITTEN LETTER THAT YOUR MAJESTY HAD ADDRESSED TO OUR COUNTRY
STATED THAT THE PRINCE WAS DEFINITELY IN AGUSTY...
CAPTAIN FURY.
.....

I GOT IT, YOU MAY LEAVE.
IT'S JUST THAT RIGHT NOW THERE IS A SPECTACLE UNFOLDING IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TELL THE PEGASUS KNIGHTS FROM SILESIA TO STAY PUT?
AND?

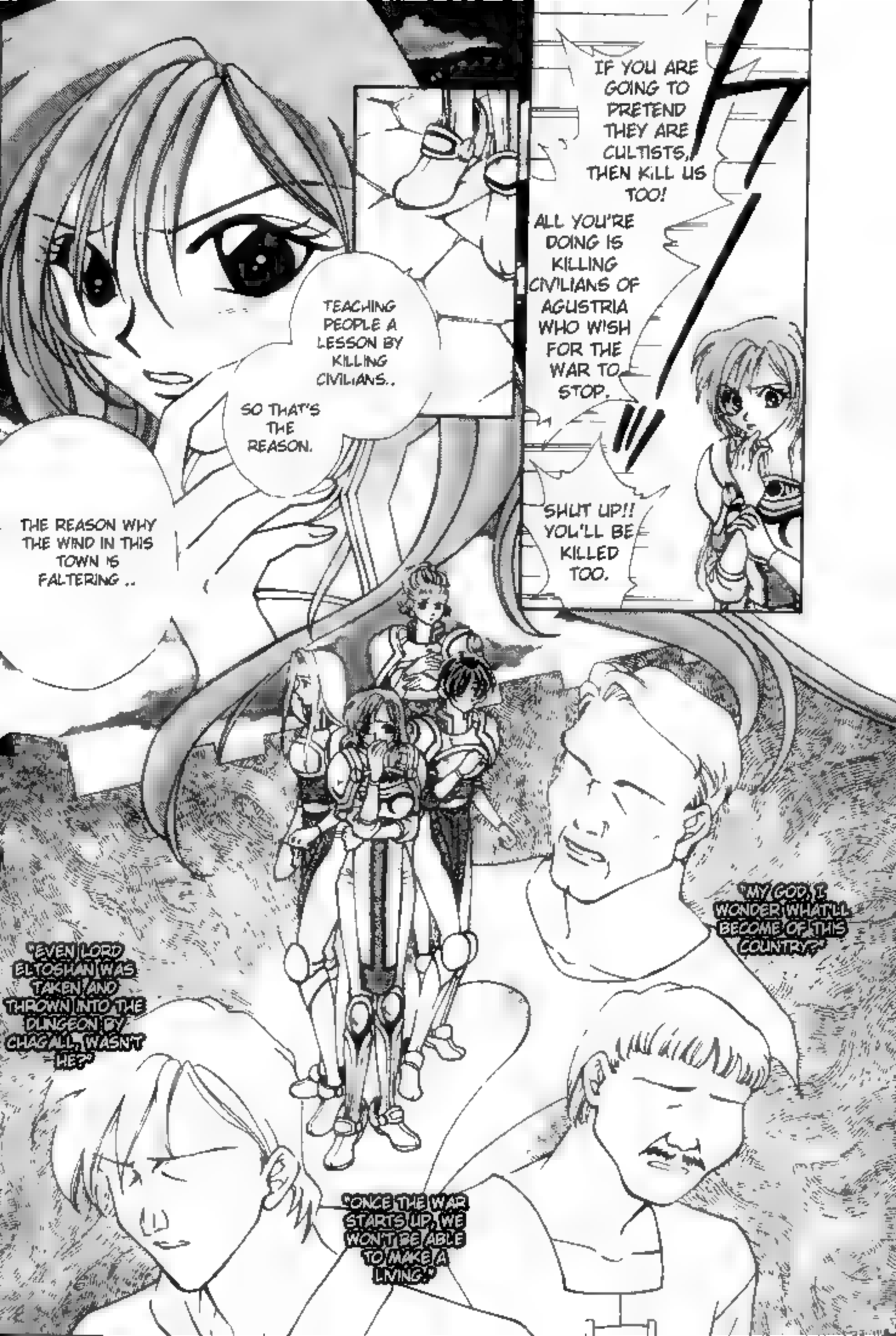
THE WIND IS FALTER-ING ..


IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER IN THE FUTURE TO REDUCE SILESIA TO A VASSAL NATION IF I CAN DEMAND FOR THEIR GRATITUDE.
ADDITIONALLY ..THERE IS A LITTLE PLACE I HAVE IN MIND FOR THEM TO GO TO.
..EXPLAIN TO ME...
WHY DID YOU GO SO FAR AS TO LIE AND SUMMON THEM OVER HERE?


MY KING ..THIS UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOR BETTER NOT DISRUPT THE PLAN.
I KNOW, I KNOW. DO NOT WORRY.

THERE IS A CROWD OVER THERE. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
EVEN THOUGH WE FINALLY ARRIVED, IT SEEMED TO HAVE MADE KING CHAGALL QUEASY JUDGING FROM THE ANAL LOOK HE HAD ON HIS FACE.
AND SINCE WAR IS STARTING UP WITH GRANDBELL I DON'T WANT TO OVERSTAY OUR WELCOME.
BUT IF WE GO HOME NOW, IT WILL JUST DISAPPOINT LADY RAHNA.
HUH?
WE WILL NOW CARRY OUT THE EXECUTION OF THESE CULTISTS.

THESE PEOPLE HAD STATUES OF THE DARK GOD HIDDEN IN THEIR HOMES!
THEREFORE, AS CULTISTS THEY ARE CONDEMNED TO THE STAKE.
EH?
EVEN THOUGH THOSE TWO WERE GOOD FOLKS. .
ALL THEY DID WAS HAND OUT POSTERS OPPOSING THE WAR WITH GRANDBELL.
HOW TERRIBLE ..!
THEY ARE NOT CULTISTS.
THIS COUNTRY STILL PARTAKES IN CULTISTS HUNTS!?


IF YOU ARE GOING TO PRETEND THEY ARE CULTISTS, THEN KILL US TOO!
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS KILLING CIVILIANS OF AGUSTRIA WHO WISH FOR THE WAR TO STOP.
SHUT UP!! YOU'LL BE KILLED TOO.
TEACHING PEOPLE A LESSON BY KILLING CIVILIANS..
SO THAT'S THE REASON.
THE REASON WHY THE WIND IN THIS TOWN IS FALTERING ..
"MY GOD, I WONDER WHAT'LL BECOME OF THIS COUNTRY?"
"EVEN LORD ELTOSHAN WAS TAKEN AND THROWN INTO THE DUNGEON BY CHAGALL, WASN'T HE?"
"ONCE THE WAR STARTS UP, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING."

THAT'S THE NINTH ONE THIS MONTH.
TO TOP IT OFF, THEY DON'T GET A TRIAL.
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER EXECUTION IS HAPPENING.
DON'T TELL ME THE NEXT PERSON IN LINE IS...LORD ELTOSHAN!?
WELL, I HEARD THAT THE HEIRHEIN ARMY HAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED NODION CASTLE...

OH GOD OF HEZUL...
PLEASE WATCH OVER MY WIFE...MY SON...AND THE ONE PERSON I LOVE...
I DO NOT WISH TO LOSE THE THINGS THAT BIND ME TO THIS WORLD.
IF YOU SO DESIRE, I OFFER MY LIFE TO YOU. I CARE NOT THAT YOU TAKE IT.
SO PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU, PROTECT HER...!
YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
I SHALL LET YOU TASTE HUMILIATION BY SNATCHING THAT GIRL AWAY FROM YOU!!
AGUSTRIA IS NO LONGER...
THE COUNTRY OF THE CHOSEN KNIGHTS...

NODION
THE ENEMY HAS BROKEN THROUGH THE CASTLE GATEEEEEE!!

FIND LACHESIS!!
CHARGE THE CASTLE!
WITHOUT THE CROSS KNIGHTS HERE, TAKING NODION CASTLE IS EASY!
. . IS THAT SO.
I UNDER-STAND.
DAMN! RETREAT INTO THE CASTLE!
LORD EVE!!
LORD EVA AND LORD ALVA HAVE...
WE MUST PROTECT LADY LACHESIS ...!!

IS EVERYONE READY?

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD BE READY TO THROW AWAY YOUR LIVES!!
OF COURSE!
WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE OUR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR PRINCESS.

THIS CASTLE WILL FALL BEFORE THEN.
I MEANT ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT SO THAT YOU MAY SURVIVE...
LONG TIME NO SEE.
LACHESIS
ANY MINUTE NOW, EVANS' LORD SIGURD WILL COME RUSHING IN.
UNTIL THEN, LET US GIVE IT OUR ALL...!!

TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD REQUEST REINFORCEMENTS FROM GRANDBELL...
TOO BAD FOR YOU HE STILL HASN'T ARRIVED YET.
LADY LACHESIS, LEAVE THIS TO US!
HURRY AND RUN INTO THE INTERIOR!!
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE TO RUN?
I WILL FIGHT TOO!!

LADY LACHESIS, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO FIGHT SO THAT WE MAY SURVIVE.
IF YOU WERE TO BE HARMED HERE IN ANY WAY...
NOW GO, PLEASE!!
HOW DO YOU THINK WE WOULD FEEL, KNOWING THE SHAME THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH FOR THE REST OUR LIVES!?

AHH
DON'T CRY!!
ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT SHOW IT ON THE OUTSIDE, THE TRUTH IS I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY..
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO LORD BROTHER ELTO?
IS LORD SIGURD REALLY GOING TO COME?
I WONDER IF EVE AND THE OTHERS ARE ALL RIGHT...

AH...
...IS THIS...THE END..?
...LORD ELTOSHAN... LADY LACHESIS...
TIME TO FINISH YOU!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...!

GRAND-BELL UNITS!!!

THE GRANDBELL ARMY WILL NOW SUPPORT THE NODION ARMY!!

SO SHALL THE VERDANE ARMY!!

BY THE IMPERIAL DECREE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING,

AH...

AAAH...!

LORD SIGURD!!

LORD SIGURD...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
EVE, YOU OKAY!?
YOU CAN SPARE THE GREET-INGS!!
IT'S ALL RIGHT ..AS LONG AS YOU CAME...
MY APOLOGIES...FOR ARRIVING SO LATE...
THE GRANDBELL ARMY AND EVEN VERDANE TOO...!?
DAMN NODION. SO THEY HAD REQUESTED REINFORCE-MENTS?
THE ENEMY COMMANDER, PRINCE ELLIOT, HAS ALREADY...MADE HIS WAY INSIDE THE CASTLE...
I...DONT HAVE MUCH LONGER FOR THIS WORLD...
PLEASE, IN MY STEAD, PROTECT LADY ..ACHESIS...

I GOT IT! DON'T TALK ANYMORE!
I WILL MAKE SURE TO SAVE LACHE-

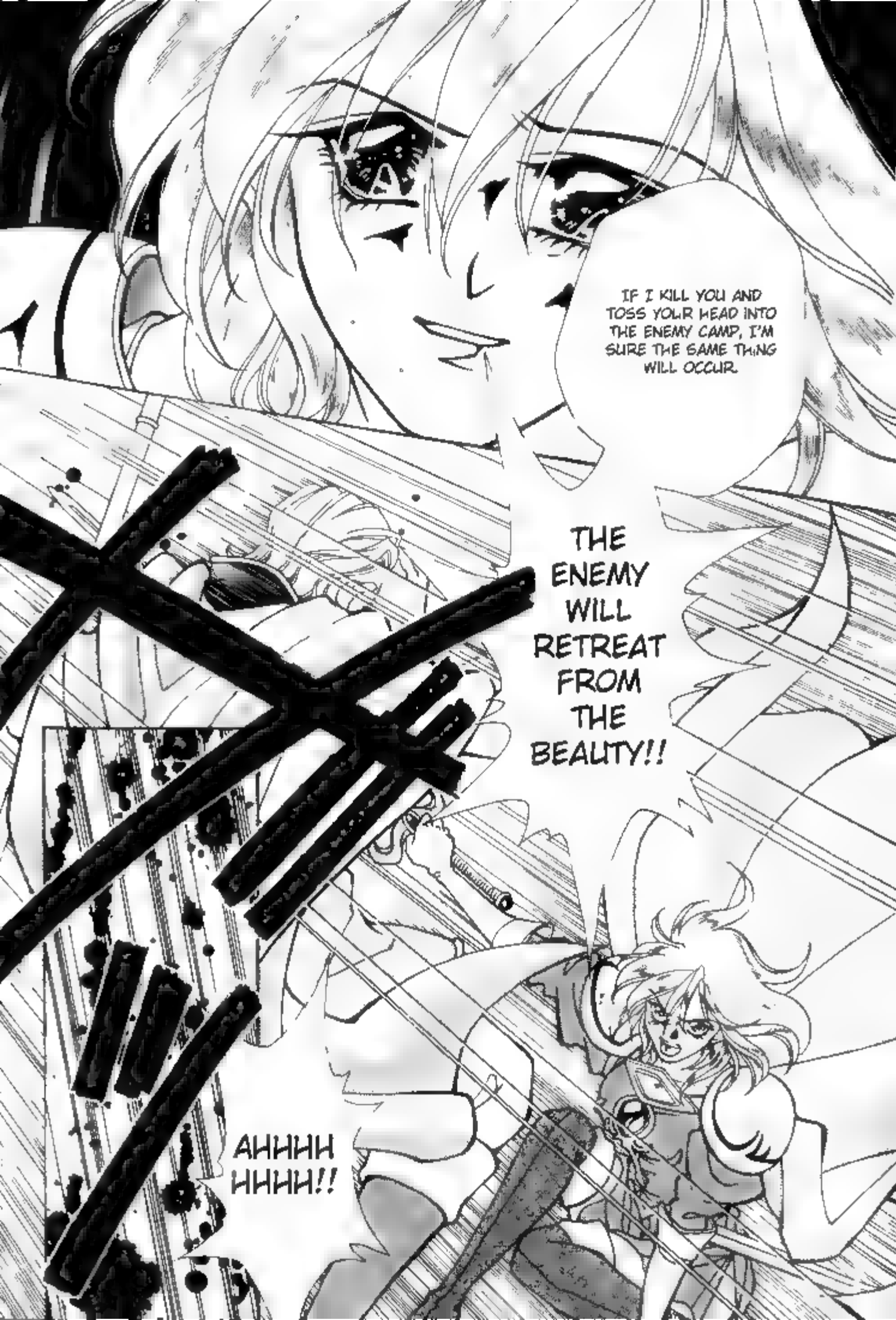
..NOW LET. . ME... SEE.
EVERYONE IS DEAD, RIGHT?
GEEZ, WASTING MY TIME LIKE THAT...
LORD ELLIOT, SHOULD WE CHASE AFTER PRINCESS LACHESIS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOU BUMBLING IDIOT!!

Ahmph
Now Now
Go!
GO GET HER!
MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T KILL HER. HIS HIGHNESS CHAGALL REQUESTED IT.
Y-YES!
※
Please just contain yourself for five minutes.
Already excited inside
BUT BEFORE THAT, I'LL...
Where's his axe?
I CAN'T HEAR HER SCREAMING .. HAS SHE RESIGNED HERSELF? I WONDERRRRR?
LA LA LA
LITTLE LACHYYYYYY
TODAY, YOU SHALL BY MINEEEE
ALL RIGHT! THEY SHOULD HAVE CAPTURED HER BY NOW.
What's with this guy?

……

Drip

BE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL AND SURRENDER QUIETLY
THE CASTLE IS SURROUNDED. REINFORCEMENTS AREN'T COMING.
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO ALL BY YOURSELF?
..WATER
EH?
HOWEVER, YOU'VE ALREADY REACHED YOUR PHYSICAL LIMIT, HAVEN'T YOU?
.....
...SO YOU DEFEATED EVERYBODY ..
AS EXPECTED OF THE SOLE YOUNGER SISTER OF ELTOSHAN.
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WATER DROPS INTO OIL?
THE RAINBOW-COLORED MEMBRANE ENTHUSIASTICALLY SPREADS OUT.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.
THE WATER THAT IS PRESENT THERE LOSES OUT TO THE BEAUTY AND ENDS UP RETREATING TO THE BACK...


IF I KILL YOU AND TOSS YOUR HEAD INTO THE ENEMY CAMP, I'M SURE THE SAME THING WILL OCCUR.
THE ENEMY WILL RETREAT FROM THE BEAUTY!!
AHHHH HHHH!!

HUMANS. . ARE STRANGE AREN'T THEY?
ONCE YOU ARE THE LAST ONE REMAINING,
IT SEEMS THAT YOU BECOME REALLY STRONG...
UWAAAAHHHHH!
MY NOSE ...MY NOSE EE!

AH...
THIS WILL END IN AN INSTANT.

ウ!
I-I-I-I-I-I'M GOING TO BE KILLED...
Daddyyyyyy
あたふた
AH.... AHHH
DON'T KILL MEEEEE!
HEY, COME ON NOW. .ALL I DID WAS GIVE YOU ONE PUNCH TO THE STOMACH.
THIS IS HE RHEIN'S COMMANDER .?
ZURUZURURU
POW
UWAGH!
...AH.

I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF SCARY FELLOW HE WOULD BE.
BUT HE'S NOTHING BUT A CHILD...
How anti-climatic
TURNS OUT LACHESIS WAS THE STRONGER ONE.
YOU DID GREAT ALL BY YOURSELF.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME..
..MY HANDS ARE SHAKING.
..AH.
YOUR SWORD..
MN...

...WAS LEAVING EVERYONE BEHIND AS I RAN AWAY.

THE ONLY THING I WAS CAPABLE OF DOING...

I'M NOT STRONG AT ALL...!

BUT I THE REASON I SAID THAT WAS TO CHEER — EVERYONE UP...

NO

I SAID IT TO CHEER MYSELF UP

IT'S BECAUSE OF THOSE WORDS THAT CAUSED EVERYONE TO GET KILLED.

FIGHT SO THAT YOU MAY SURVIVE.

EVERYONE HAS DIED

I THOUGHT I WOULD PROTECT EVERYONE, YET

"IF YOU WERE TO BE HARMED HERE IN ANY WAY, HOW DO YOU THINK WE WOULD FEEL FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?"

"LADY LACHESIS, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO FIGHT SO THAT WE MAY SURVIVE."

LORD SIGURD...
WHY COULDN'T LORD BROTHER ELTO
BE HERE FOR ME RIGHT NOW. .

THESE WORDS...

...AND?
LACHESIS IS IN HER ROOM RIGHT NOW?
WHAT HAPPENED TO EVE AND THEM CAME AS A SHOCK TO HER WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE NEWS.
YEAH...IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO LET HER REST FOR A BIT.
COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM ELTOSHAN'S MOUTH AND NO ONE ELSE.
I'M SURE SHE WANTED TO HEAR THEM...

I AGREE. LET US AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE WITH HEIRHEIN'S KING.
THAT IDIOT PRINCE SHOULD BE ENOUGH OF AN INCENTIVE.
BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE HE SPOILS HIM.
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND SAVE ELTO FOR HER SAKE TOO.
WHILE WE ARE WASTING OUR TIME HERE HE MAY FALL UNDER HARM'S WAY.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SEE HOW THE REMAINING LORDS MAKE THEIR MOVE...
WE ARE NOT THE AGGRESSORS...I DON'T WANT ANY UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED.
AS IT IS, WE MUST EXHIBIT OUR POWER TO KING CHAGALL BY MAKING HIM ABANDON HIS INSIGNIFICANT TERRITORIES SO THAT HE IS FORCED TO RELEASE ELTO.
THEN I SHALL FIGHT TOO.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT PRINCESS LACHESIS IS THE MORE REFINED PERSON IN COMPARISON.
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WAIT, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE WITH LACHESIS?
YEAH.

LACHESIS!?
...I...WILL PROTECT THIS CASTLE.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF WAITING AROUND...
I BEG YOU, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ENLIST IN YOUR ARMY...!!

COMMENT

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PROOFREADER: TRIMURTI
MINOR CORRECTIONS/QC: AQUANTIS, VINCENTASM

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INFORMATION